AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-76. (Canceled)

- 77. (New) A method of screening for a somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance, which comprises the following steps (a) to (d):
- (a) a step for providing an isolated somatic cell comprising a marker gene operably linked to the expression control region of an ECAT2 gene, wherein the ECAT2 gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 or 7,
- (b) a step for bringing into contact a test substance with the somatic cell of the aforementioned step (a),
- (c) a step following the aforementioned step (b), for detecting the presence or absence of the emergence of cells expressing the marker gene, and
- (d) a step for selecting a test substance that allows the emergence of the cells as a candidate somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance.
- 78. (New) The screening method of claim 77, wherein the ECAT2 gene is an endogenous ECAT2 gene, and wherein the somatic cell is a mouse cell.
- 79. (New) The screening method of claim 77, wherein the ECAT2 gene is an exogenous ECAT2 gene.
- 80. (New) The screening method of claim 77, wherein the somatic cell homozygously comprises the marker gene.

- 81. (New) The screening method of claim 77, wherein the marker gene is a drug resistance gene, a fluorescent protein gene, a luminescent enzyme gene, a chromogenic enzyme gene, or a gene comprising a combination thereof.
- 82. (New) A method of screening for a somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance, which comprises the following steps (a) to (d):
- (a) a step for providing an isolated somatic cell comprising a marker gene operably linked to the expression control region of an ECAT3 gene,
- (b) a step for bringing into contact a test substance with the somatic cell of the aforementioned step (a),
- (c) a step following the aforementioned step (b), for detecting the presence or absence of the emergence of cells expressing the marker gene, and
- (d) a step for selecting a test substance that allows the emergence of the cells as a candidate somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance.
- 83. (New) The screening method of claim 82, wherein the ECAT3 gene is an endogenous ECAT3 gene, and wherein the somatic cell is a mouse cell.
- 84. (New) The screening method of claim 82, wherein the ECAT3 gene is an exogenous ECAT3 gene.
- 85. (New) The screening method of claim 82, wherein the somatic cell homozygously comprises the marker gene.
- 86. (New) The screening method of claim 82, wherein the marker gene is a drug resistance gene, a fluorescent protein gene, a luminescent enzyme gene, a chromogenic enzyme gene, or a gene comprising a combination thereof.

- 87. (New) A method of screening for a somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance, which comprises the following steps (a) to (d):
- (a) a step for providing an isolated somatic cell comprising (i) a first marker gene operably linked to the expression control region of an ECAT2 gene, wherein the ECAT2 gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 or 7, and (ii) a second marker gene operably linked to the expression control region of an ECAT3 gene, wherein the first marker gene is different from the second marker gene,
- (b) a step for bringing into contact a test substance with the somatic cell of the aforementioned step (a),
- (c) a step following the aforementioned step (b), for detecting the presence or absence of the emergence of cells expressing the marker genes, and
- (d) a step for selecting a test substance that allows the emergence of the cells as a candidate somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance.
- 88. (New) The screening method of claim 87, wherein the ECAT2 is an endogenous gene and/or the ECAT3 gene is an endogenous gene, and wherein the somatic cell is a mouse cell.
- 89. (New) The screening method of claim 87, wherein the ECAT2 and ECAT3 genes are exogenous genes.
- 90. (New) The screening method of claim 87, wherein the somatic cell homozygously comprises the marker gene.
- 91. (New) The screening method of claim 87, wherein each of the first and second marker genes is a drug resistance gene, a fluorescent protein gene, a luminescent enzyme gene, a chromogenic enzyme gene, or a gene comprising a combination thereof.